



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
GREEN ACRES PROGRAM
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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LISA P. JACKSON
Commissioner

July, 2007

Dear Municipal/County Clerk:

Despite the depletion of Garden State Preservation Trust funding, I am writing to inform you that Green Acres grants and loans are available to municipalities and counties for land acquisition and the development of outdoor park and recreational facilities. Thanks to the leadership of Governor Corzine and the state legislature, \$20 million was included in the state's FY08 budget to fund these projects. I am pleased to extend an invitation to all interested municipalities and counties to apply for these newly available funds, as well as supplemental funding from project cancellations and withdrawals. I ask that that you provide a copy of this letter to each member of your governing body.

Green Acres will accept applications until October 26, 2007. Funding is limited, and we anticipate that competition will be intense. As a result, we will only consider funding requests from **new applicants** or from applicants who have **completed or are making significant progress** on previously approved projects.

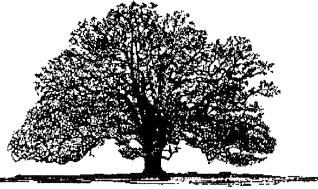
Eligible land acquisition projects include the purchase of natural areas, historic sites, conservation areas, water bodies, and open space for active or passive recreation. Eligible recreational projects include facilities that provide boating, fishing, swimming, outdoor games and sports, biking, picnicking, camping, or nature interpretation. Related costs incurred as part of the acquisition or development project also may be eligible for reimbursement. More detailed information about funding categories is provided in the enclosed attachment.

Since 1961, the Green Acres Program has assisted municipalities and counties in the acquisition of open space for recreation and conservation purposes, as well as the development of outdoor recreational facilities. The Green Acres Program is committed to preserving New Jersey's natural resources statewide and is proud to be able to continue the tradition of partnering with local and county government to serve the people of our state.

On behalf of Commissioner Jackson and the entire staff of Green Acres, thank you for your continued support of our program.

Sincerely,

John Flynn
Administrator



COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL GREEN ACRES PROJECTS FUNDING CATEGORIES AND LEVELS

Acquisition Funding

Standard Acquisition category: Twenty five percent (25%) matching grants are available to local governments that do not yet have an open space tax. Supplemental 2% loans, payable over 30 years at 2% interest, may be available.

Planning Incentive category: Fifty percent (50%) matching grants are available to local governments that have an open space tax and a Green Acres-approved Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). New applicants must submit a Planning Incentive application; local governments with existing Planning Incentive projects should submit a letter detailing acquisitions and funding needs **for the next year**.

Site Specific Incentive category: Fifty percent (50%) matching grants are available to local governments that have an open space tax but do not have a Green Acres-approved OSRP. Applicants under this category must submit a Green Acres application for each parcel they would like to purchase.

Urban Aid acquisition category: Seventy five percent (75%) matching grants are available for acquisitions located in Urban Aid municipalities (see list at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/muniaid/06_aid/ua_fy07_pub_notice.htm) Supplemental 0% interest loan funding, payable over 30 years, may be available.

The demand for Green Acres funding continues to greatly exceed what is available. For this reason, we encourage local governments to consider as an additional source of acquisition funding the low-interest loans available through the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program (EIFP). Please contact EIFP staff at (609) 292-8961 with any questions.

Outdoor Recreation Development Funding

Standard Development category: Funds for outdoor recreation development are available in the form of 2% interest loans, payable over 20 years.

Densely or Highly Populated Municipality category: Twenty five percent (25%) matching grants are available for park development projects located in Densely (population density of 5,000 per square mile) or Highly Populated (total population over 35,000) municipalities, or sponsored by a Highly Populated County (population density of 1,000 per square mile). Supplemental loan funding, if available, would be at 2% interest, payable over 20 years.

Urban Aid Municipality or Densely Populated County Development: Park development projects located in Urban Aid municipalities (see list at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/muniaid/06_aid/ua_fy07_pub_notice.htm) or sponsored by a Densely Populated County (population density of 5,000 per square mile) are eligible for 50% matching grant and supplemental loan funding, when available. Urban Aid loans are at 0% interest, payable over 20 years.

Additional information about these funding categories, project eligibility, project ranking and selection, and proposal preparation is contained in the Green Acres application. Applications can be obtained by visiting our web page at www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres or calling us at (609) 984-0570. We encourage you to call our staff as soon as possible to begin discussions of your proposed project(s).